

Be Thou My Vision

Traditional Irish Words and Melody
Translated by Byrne (1905) and Hull (1912), alt.
Arranged by Alex Yim

♩ = 120

D Dsus⁴ D Dsus⁴ D Dsus⁴ D Dsus⁴

5 D Em⁷ Bm D

Be thou my vi - sion, oh Lord of my heart,

9 A Bm⁷ Em⁷ Asus⁴

naught be all else to me save that thou art;

Be Thou My Vision

13 Em G^{ma7} Bm⁷ G²

thou my best thought in the day and the night,

17 D/F# Bm G² D Dsus⁴

wa - king or sleep - ing, thy pre - sence my light.

21 D Dsus⁴ D Dsus⁴ D Dsus⁴ D

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics and a piano accompaniment with guitar chords. The first system (measures 13-16) has chords Em, G^{ma7}, Bm⁷, and G². The second system (measures 17-20) has chords D/F#, Bm, G², D, and Dsus⁴. The third system (measures 21-24) has chords D, Dsus⁴, D, Dsus⁴, D, Dsus⁴, and D. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and a more melodic treble line.

2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, and I thy true Son,
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

3. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my armour and be thou my might,
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
Raise thou me heavenward, O pow'r of my pow'r.

4. Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou my inheritance through all my days;
Thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

5. High King of heaven, when the battle is done,
Grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heav'n's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.